

The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at Seabrook City Hall, 1700 First Street, Seabrook, Texas to discuss and if appropriate, take action on the agenda items listed below.

THOSE PRESENT WERE:

Helen Burton	Chair
Sally Antrobus	Vice-Chair
John Coggeshall	Member
Monica Comeaux	Member
Debra Harper	Member
Karen Tisdell	Member
David Popken	Member
Meredith Brant	Assistant City Secretary
Gayle Cook	City Manager

1.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no comments.

2.0 BUSINESS

2.1 Update by City Manager on proposed expansion of Wildlife Park. (Cook)

Ms. Cook stated that she attended the meeting to address the issue of possible expansion of Wildlife Park through a portion of the city's new land acquisition. At this time the new Public Works facility and animal adoption center are just a concept and will remain as such unless citizens vote for the bond election. In addition to the proposed facility there may be a need for a dog run or drainage improvements. She added that the drawings on the web page are conceptual, but in time there will be more definitive plans. In the meantime, it is necessary for options to remain open. She stated that she will address the committee again in January or February, after the election.

Ms. Cook stated that she has reviewed the goals of the Parks Master Plan. While the city's CIP is geared toward projects of \$5,000 or more, the smaller cost items could be added into the parks budget. She stated that the committee should consider creating a priority list of projects to keep in the forefront for Council consideration so as not to be forgotten.

2.2 Update and consideration of the marsh grasses and barrier plants.

Ms. Burton stated that the next planting of marsh grasses will be September 27 which is National Estuary Day.

2.3 Staff Appreciation Luncheon scheduled for October 8.

Members volunteered to bring the following to the luncheon:

Brisket – Helen Burton

Potato Salad – Karen Tisdell

Baked Beans – Debra Harper

Deviled Eggs – Sally Antrobus

Salad – Monica Comeaux

Dessert – David Popken

Bread – Helen Burton

The luncheon will be scheduled for 11:30 or noon depending on which time works best for the parks workers.

2.4 Consider advisability of a dog park. (Comeaux)

Ms. Comeaux gave a report on her findings of various cities that have dog parks. She noted that Fredericksburg has a dog park which is funded through a non-profit.

Ms. Harper suggested that the area next to Brummerhop Park might be an ideal place for a dog park.

Ms. Burton stated that she is concerned about clean-up and the burden placed on staff. She suggested that inquiries be made as to the operations of the dog park at Bay Area Park. Also, if members would look at Brummerhop Park prior to the next meeting and bring back opinions on its suitability as a dog park.

2.5 Consider additional funding for trees and plants at Baybrook Park as a Staff Action Item.

Ms. Burton suggested this item be considered at the next meeting.

2.6 Consider the H-GAC Parks and Natural Area award application.

Ms. Antrobus stated that she had submitted the application for the award.

2.7 Consider updates on the previously discussed items:

- **Little Free library** – Ms. Burton stated that she was not aware of anyone except herself placing books in the little library, although the Meador Library has donated some of them.
- **Trees** – Mr. Coggeshall stated that Pine Gully trees are looking great, but the trees on Hammer are suffering due to lack of irrigation.
- **Parks & Wildlife trail** – Ms. Burton stated that she had spoken with parks director about the trail which will be starting along Pine Gully with an anticipated finish date in 2015.

2.8 Report on meeting with Public Works Director and Staff.

Ms. Burton stated that she met with staff to discuss the trail markers for 911 purposes. She will be calculating the number of posts needed. Also, the color for Wildlife was changed to brown in order to be more distinguishable.

3.0 ROUTINE BUSINESS – The committee will discuss, consider and if appropriate, take action on the items listed below.

3.1 Update on recent and ongoing park activities and improvements.

Kid Fish will be in Pine Gully Park on September 20.

3.2 Approve the minutes of the August 7, 2014 meeting.

Ms. Burton pointed out that there were errors on line 43 (“at the end of the parking lot” is the location), 53 and 55 (neither task was complete as indicated in the minutes, Parks staff has been asked to do them).

Motion was made by Ms. Antrobus and seconded by Mr. Popken

To approve the minutes with noted corrections.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

3.3 Consider Action Items Checklist which is attached and made a part of this agenda.

This item was not discussed.

3.4 Consider upcoming meeting dates and agenda items.

The next meeting will be October 2. Agenda items will include:

- Staff appreciation luncheon
- Advisability of dog park
- Possible funding for plants at Baybrook Park
- Updates from chair (little free library, marsh planting)
- Report on meetings with staff.

Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.



Meredith Brant
Meredith Brant, Secretary

Helen Burton
Helen Burton, Chair

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